

New York Film Academy - Los Angeles Campus  
College of Visual and Performing Arts

"Creating Writers for the 21st Century"

Presents...

# Loglines

## and the Business of Screenwriting

# What are Loglines?

- 1) One to two sentence descriptions of your screenplay.

*When INCITING INCIDENT, a SPECIFIC PROTAGONIST must OBJECTIVE, or else STAKES.  
In doing so, he/she LEARNS a life lesson.*

- 2) The basic currency of story in Hollywood.
- 3) A diagnostic tool for your story.
- 4) The first writing sample anyone in Hollywood will see from you.

# Constructing a Logline

1) Concept

2) Main Character & His or Her Goal

3) Character Arc / Journey / Lesson

# Jurassic Park (Sci-fi Adventure Film)

When things go terribly wrong on an island populated by dinosaurs, a work-obsessed paleontologist must save two children from the formerly-extinct beasts. In doing so, he learns there's more to life than dinosaurs.



# 1) Concept

- When things go terribly wrong on an island populated by dinosaurs...



## 2) Main Character & Goal

- ...a work-obsessed paleontologist must save two children from the formerly-extinct beasts.



### 3) Character Arc / Journey / Lesson

- In doing so, he learns there's more to life than dinosaurs.





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# Titanic (Historical Adventure/Romance)

*Romeo and Juliet* on a doomed ocean liner. A working class boy falls in love with an upper class girl, who is engaged to an egocentric, uncaring millionaire. Their love blossoms during the final days of the *Titanic*, leading her to abandon her shallow life of luxury for a fuller, more authentic one.



# Pulp Fiction (Crime Drama Film)

A web of interlaced stories that revolve around two hit men charged with returning a mysterious briefcase to their crime boss. During the course of this unpredictable journey, a near death experience forces one of them to re-evaluate his violent ways.



# Twilight (Fantasy / Romance Film)

A teenage girl risks everything when she falls in love with a vampire.

*You don't know how long  
i have waited for you..*  
I'd rather die , then stay away from you...



Loglines can tell stories from different  
POVs and with different Tones

Transported to a Surreal Landscape, a  
Young Girl kills the First Person she meets  
and then teams up with Three Strangers  
to kill again.

# Name That Movie!

- **Logline #1** - When two ex-spies are kidnapped by their evil nemesis, there are only two people in the world who can rescue them... their kids!
- **Logline #2** - In a future where criminals are arrested before the crime occurs, a despondent cop, while on the run, struggles to prove his innocence for a murder he has not yet committed.
- **Logline #3** - A psychologist struggles to cure a troubled boy who is haunted by a bizarre affliction -- he sees dead people.
- **Logline #4** - After a series of grisly shark attacks, a sheriff struggles to protect his small beach community against the bloodthirsty monster, in spite of the greedy chamber of commerce..
- **Logline #5** - After learning his father was murdered, a brooding prince struggles with whether or not to kill the culprit, his uncle - the new king..

# Write YOUR Logline!

1) Concept

2) Main Character & His/Her Goal

3) Character Arc / Journey / Lesson

Pitch Your Loglines!



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